

he passed away on October 20, 1953 at the age of 92 he had collected for the best part of 70 years and was the last survivor of the charter members of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society. It is sometimes said that he was careless about his locality labels and it is undoubtedly true. The post office, or mountain, is occasionally put in the wrong county on his labels and many specimens carried no labels whatever. But the specimens were beautifully mounted, even the smallest perfectly spread, and the collection was a joy to see. Beauty was all important.

At another time he wrote, "In the meantime let us indulge the hope that on the other Shore, wheresoever it be, that Behr, Letcher, Mueller, and in fact all the old collectors who have preceded us across the Great Divide, will have a location picked and nets enough to go around when we shall join them there." May we "indulge the hope" that he has had his wish fulfilled.

For data concerning Mr. Cottle I am indebted to Dr. F. X. Williams and Rev. Edward Guedet.

The Cottle Collection is now in the Chicago Natural History Museum.

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## A NEW SPECIES OF *APLASTUS* FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA WITH NOTES ON OTHER SPECIES OF PLASTOCERINAE (Coleoptera: Elateridae)

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The species of *Aplastus* are inhabitants of the western or southwestern United States, being reliably recorded from Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah. While examining specimens in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, however, several specimens of a new species from Lower California were found.

### *Aplastus peninsularis* Bechtel, new species

(Figures 9-12)

*Male*.—Testaceous, thorax slightly darker, head much darker. *Head* coarsely, densely punctured, punctures separated by less than their own diameter; frons with a triangular impression; eye moderately prominent; antenna with apex of segment VII reaching apex of hind angle of prothorax, segment III (fig. 11) 1.3 times as long as segment II, segment IV (fig. 11) 2.3 times as long as segment III and 1.3 times as long as segments II+III, segments IV-X serrate, outer margins almost straight, segment

XI (fig. 10) not serrate, 5.7 times as long as broad. *Prothorax* (fig. 12) measured medially as broad as long; apex evenly arcuate, without median emargination; lateral margin smooth, straight, subparallel, lateral carinula absent; hind angles moderately divergent, strongly carinate above and below; less coarsely, slightly less densely punctured than head, punctures separated by slightly less than their own diameter except on disc and from lateral margin to prosternal suture where punctures are separated by 1.5 to 3 times their own diameter. *Elytron* six times as long as broad; lateral margin straight for basal  $2/3$ , gradually narrowing and evenly arcuate for apical  $1/3$ ; striae feebly impressed, gradually disappearing toward humerus, interstrial areas feebly convex. *Prosternum*, excluding mucro, coarsely punctured, punctures separated by slightly more than their own diameter except apical  $1/5$  which is less coarsely, less densely punctured and separated from basal  $4/5$  by a transverse carinula, middle  $2/5$  with a moderate lateral depression on either side of a median elevated ridge, basal  $2/5$  deeply sulcate between coxae. *Metacoxal plate* rather abruptly and broadly expanded at middle  $1/3$ . *Genitalia* (fig. 9), gonostylus without ventral pre-apical tooth, as viewed ventrally 2.5 times as long as part of aedeagus projecting beyond its apex; basal part of aedeagus narrow, becoming broader toward middle, middle broadest then gradually narrowing toward apex which is broadly truncate. Length 14 mm., width at humeri 3.25 mm.

*Female*.—Unknown.

*Holotype* male, California Academy of Sciences, and 4 male paratypes, SAN VICENTE, BAJA CALIFORNIA, May 11, 1938 (W. E. Simonds). Paratypes in the collections of the California Academy of Sciences and the writer.

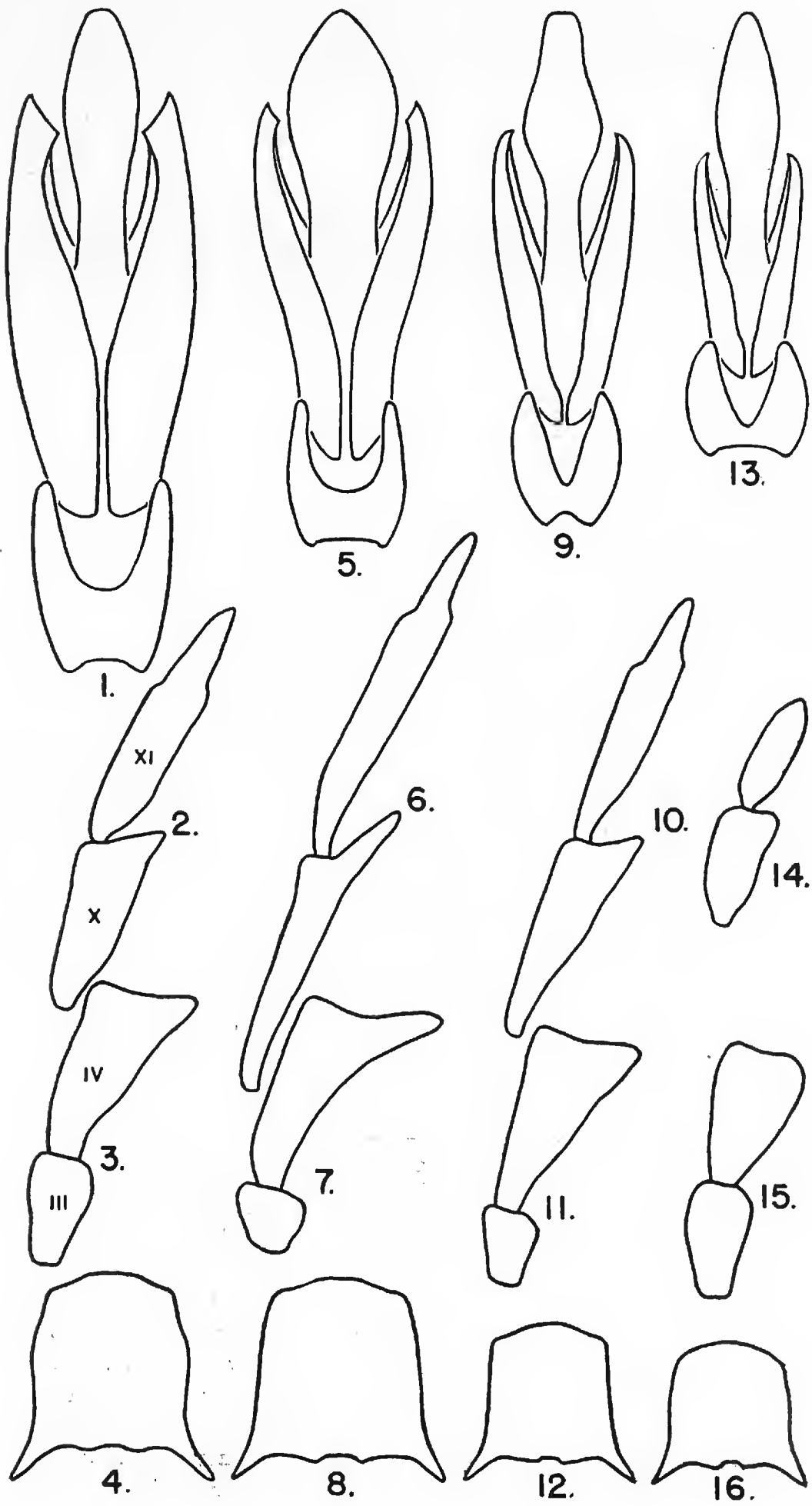
Variations in the type series are as follows: triangular impression of frons present or absent; antennal segment IV 2.1–2.6 times as long as segment III, segment XI 5.5–6.0 times as long as broad; lateral margin of prothorax subparallel or slightly arched near middle, lateral carinula present or absent; apical transverse carinula of prosternum moderate to almost absent; scutellum with or without a median longitudinal carina; length 13.10–14.00 mm., width at humeri 2.75–3.30 mm. with a width:length ratio of 4.2–4.4.

*A. peninsularis* is closely related to *angusticollis* Horn, *piceus* Van Dyke and *speratus* LeConte. Of these species, it appears to be

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#### EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Figs. 1–4, *Aplastus speratus* LeConte, Lebec, Kern Co., Calif. Figs. 5–8, *A. piceus* Van Dyke topotype. Figs. 9–12, *A. peninsularis* Bechtel, holotype. Figs. 13–16, *A. angusticollis* Horn, topotype. Figs. 1, 5, 9, 13, male genitalia, ventral, X 36. Figs. 2, 6, 10, 14, antennal segments X–XI, lateral, X 36. Figs. 3, 7, 11, 15, antennal segments III–IV, lateral, X 36. Figs. 4, 8, 12, 16, prothorax, dorsal, X 9.



most closely related to *angusticollis* Horn from which it differs in in the shape and size of the antennal segments, prothorax and genitalia (figs. 9-16). It differs from *piceus* Van Dyke and *speratus* LeConte in these same respects (figs. 1-12) but in addition the elytral striae are not well impressed and the ventral preapical tooth of the paramere is absent.

The type localities of two species of Plastocerinae need correction. Van Dyke (1932) stated that the type locality for *Euthysanius cribricollis* Van Dyke is "near Kaweah, Tulare County, California"; the label of the type, however, reads "Kaweah Pwr. Hse. Rsv." Inasmuch as this reservoir is approximately 6 miles ENE of Kaweah and at a higher elevation, it would seem advisable to designate Kaweah Power House #3 Reservoir,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile S. Ash Mountain Park Headquarters, Tulare County, California as the restricted type locality of *E. cribricollis* Van Dyke. Van Dyke (1943) designated Morongo Valley, Riverside County, California as the type locality for *Aplastus piceus* Van Dyke. Morongo Valley is actually in San Bernardino County, thus the correct type locality of *A. piceus* Van Dyke should be Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County, California.

The above proposed changes in the two type localities were discussed with the late Dr. E. C. Van Dyke who was helpful in determining the exact areas in which the types were collected and who also concurred with the writer concerning these changes.

### LITERATURE CITED

VAN DYKE, E. C.

- 1932. Miscellaneous studies in the Elateridae and related families of Coleoptera. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. (4) 20:291-465.
- 1943. New species of west American Coleoptera. Pan-Pacific Ent., 19:41-52.

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### BOOK REVIEW

FREAKS AND MARVELS OF INSECT LIFE by Harold Bastin. Printed in Great Britain. Pubished by A. A. Wyn Inc. New York. 248 pp., 20 pl., 25 figs. 1954. \$3.75.

Mr. Bastin, who is an English author and a maker of Entomological models, has done a very creditable job in the writing of this book. Not only does it cover a wide diversity of aspects of the vast domain of insect life in a very informative and entertaining manner, but it also escapes triteness by close adherence to the facts, as far as a single reviewer can determine, and by avoidance of teleological statements which are often a major fault of many popular accounts of insect natural history.